



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



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First Quarter, 2005

Whole No.154

## President's Report by David Zemer

The past year, my first as President of the Canal Zone Study Group, went by smoothly due to the great work of our network of members that are in place.

We had good attendance at our local meetings, another profitable annual Mail Sale, and three of our members won gold medals for their exhibits of Canal Zone: Canal Zone's First Issue (Garry Weiss), Canal Zone Postal Stationery 1907-1924 (Irwin J. Gibbs), and Lindbergh and the Caribbean (Alan Bentz). We continued to recruit new members at a steady pace, 40 by my count. Last year was the first time the CZSG was represented at the last summers annual Panama Canal Society's reunion in Orlando, Florida, (continue on page 5)

## CZSG 2005 Mail Sale

Consignments for the 33<sup>rd</sup> CZSG Mail Sale should be sent to arrive no later than June 27, 2005. Early submission of material is appreciated. The Sale will close in late September 2005.

An inventory must accompany all consignments. Certificates are required for Scott #1, #2, #3 and #15.

Damaged or poor quality examples of lower value stamps, postal stationery and covers are respectfully declined and will be returned. If submitting large or odd-sized items, please send an inventory in advance or call (510) 843-2459 for approval.

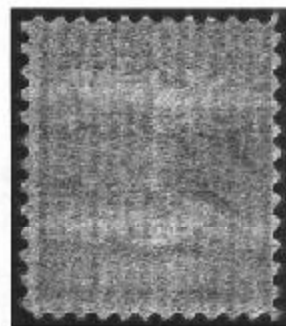
Ship material insured or registered to

**Canal Zone Mail Sale**  
c/o Tom Brougham  
P. O. Box 1284  
Berkeley, CA 94701

## Ridged Gum on C.Z. Stamps by Geoffrey Brewster

There is an article that includes discussion about ridged gum on U. S. stamps in the, *United States Philatelist* for June 2003. The article illustrates the backs of some U.S. stamps with ridged gum. These illustrations looked exactly like the backs of some of my C.Z. stamps. For decades I had assumed my C.Z. stamps with gum of this appearance were merely faulty stamps, having disturbed OG from someone's use of a particular mount, or poor mounting, or poor storage. But now I am surprised to learn that this gum actually is not evidence of disturbance but instead is OG. I shall describe this gum and list the C.Z. stamps on which I have found it.

The gum ridges appear as vertical gum lines on the backs of stamps. There are two types: wide ridges 1/16" wide, with 12-14 ridges, mostly 13 per normal size definitive, and narrow ridges 1/32" wide, with 27-28 ridges per normal size definitive. The ridges were an attempt to achieve better adherence of stamps to mail, the idea presumably being that some additional gum via thicker portions or



Ridged Gum with 14 ridges

lines, perhaps in conjunction with the standard, or thinner portions, would do the job. The gum ridges were applied during gumming by gum rollers with grooves that collected and deposited more gum than the surrounding ungrooved surface. The wide ridges began use in 1926 or 1927, and the narrow ridges followed in 1929. These gum ridges are often very easy to notice, but sometimes it is difficult to see them, especially if the gum is disturbed, and sometimes they may be present but are very difficult to perceive or simply cannot be detected. (continue on page 5)

## CZSG Regional Meetings

**WESTPEX 2005**, Sat. April 16, 2005, 12:30pm, San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA. Our 36th consecutive annual meeting at WESTPEX!

**Philatelic Show 2005**, Sat. April 30, 2005, 10am-noon, Holiday Inn of Foxborough MA.

**PIPEX 2005**, Sat. May 28, 2005, 9am, Monarch hotel, 12566 S. E. 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Clackamas OR.

## In This issue:

President's Report.....	1
Secretary's Report.....	2
Auctions.....	3
George W. Brett.....	3
National Postal Museum.....	4
Wrong Font Varieties.....	6

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

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## **Winners:**

**APS StampShow 2004**, August 12-15, 2004 Sacramento, California, Gold to **Irwin J. Gibbs**, Canal Zone Postal Stationery 1907-1924 (also United Postal Stationery Society Award).

**Australian National Swan River 2004 STAMPSHOW**, Sept. 9-12, 2004 Fremantle, Western Australia, Large Silver to **Robert J. Radley**, Canal Zone. (five frame exhibit).

**Thamespex 2004**, October 24, 2004 Waterford, Connecticut, Grand Award, Gold to **Alan P. Bentz**, Lindbergh and the Caribbean (also APS Award for Best Exhibit by APS member, AAMS Medal and Most Popular Award).  
**Congratulations to all!**

(continue on page 5)

## Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The fourth calendar quarter, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, was outstanding insofar as auctions of Canal Zone philately were concerned. My report on the Leeds auction of early October appeared in the previous *CZP* but there were other sales of merit during the last three months of the year. A surprising number of the greater rarities were offered, especially by the Weiss firm.

Shown below are more than 20 of the most interesting realizations. The first price given is hammer with commission included followed by the 2004 Scott's Specialized Catalogue value in parenthesis.

- 1, OG, H, VF+ \$688 (\$550) Bennett
- 2, F, on F+ cover Crist. to Crist.  
6/28/04 \$150 (\$240)
- 3, dist. OG, H, barely F \$161 (\$350) Weiss
- 5, F on F+ cover 7/19/04 to Panama, might be ERD. \$358 (\$75) Bennett
- 10a, inverted overprint, OG, H, VF \$165 (\$225) Rumsey
- 10b, L of CANAL sideways, used, a light corner crease o/w F \$1610 (\$2500) Weiss

- 12c, CANAL ZONE double, used, F \$546 (\$700) Weiss
- 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, all F or better on VF cover Matachin 10/31/06 to U.S., w/ Crist. registry label \$660 (\$n/a) Bennett
- 13b, ZONE antique, OG, H, VF in pair w/ normal \$150 (\$198)
- 13c, PANAMA overprint double, OG, H, barely F \$403 (\$650)
- 16c, double surcharge, used, nat. se bottom, F \$2645 (\$2000)
- 23, F-VF w/ #20 on VF reg. cover Pedro Miguel to U.S. 11/25/06, FD for #23, \$633 (\$n/a) Bennett
- 26b, overprint reading up, left margin single w/ ZONE on selv. OG, H, couple small thins o/w almost VF \$5225 (\$4000), prev. offered 1/04 by Ivy & Mader, now has a PF Cert.
- 58, OG, H, F-VF \$173 (\$275) Weiss
- 61f, booklet pane of 6, OG, H in selv., gum skips, VF \$2640 (\$2400) R.A. Siegel
- 94, OG, H, F-VF \$69 (\$225) Regency-Superior
- 117a, complete booklet of 2 panes, OG, NH, F-VF \$127 (\$90) Regency-Superior
- 157a, silver (bridge) missing, OG, NH, XF margin copy \$6050 (\$7500) Bennett
- J15, OG, H, VF \$173 (\$90) Regency-Superior

- OX1, sheet of 8, no gum as issued, one stamp w/ a nat. inclusion o/w F-VF \$345 (\$350) Weiss
- U4, used entire, F, Crist. to US 11/14/21, ERD, \$550 (\$n/a) Bennett
- UX3, mint entire VF+ \$138 (\$190) Weiss
- UX6, mint entire, XF \$1035 (\$725) Weiss

The full names and addresses of these auction houses which sold the above lots are shown below. Please mention *CZP* as your information source should you request a catalog from any.

### Matthew Bennett International

1954 Greenspring Drive, LL 18  
Baltimore, MD 21093

### Regency-Superior

229 N. Euclid Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

### Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Inc.

1255 Post St., Suite 1100  
San Francisco, CA 94109

### R.A. Siegel Auctions

60 East 56th St., 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

### Weiss Auctions

P.O. Box 5358  
Bethlehem, PA 18015

## George W. Brett, CZSG 0001 1912 - 2005

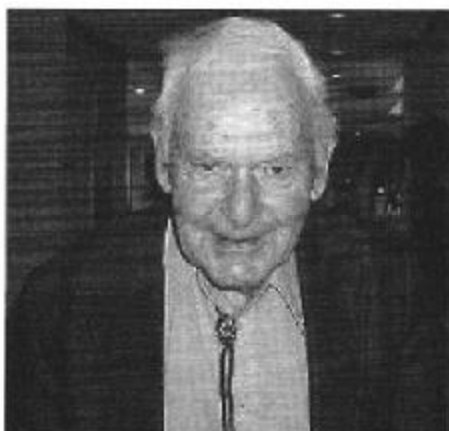
George W. Brett, the foremost authority on United States stamp production, died Jan. 14 at Hilltop Care Center in his native Spirit Lake, Iowa, from complications following pneumonia. He was 92.

No other American stamp collector received so many accolades, including one honor normally conferred posthumously — he was inducted into the USSS Hall of Fame in 2000. And no other stamp collector contributed so many articles or reports to philatelic journals in his lifetime.

A one-time postal worker, he went to Panama in 1942 to work for the government as a fiscal accounting clerk. After service in the Navy, he returned to Panama. In 1949, he enrolled at the

University of Chicago, graduating in 1953, and receiving a Master of Science degree in 1961.

Mr. Brett became a government geologist. His career with the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C., put him in close proximity with original United States Post Office



George W. Brett

Department documents and the files of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. He retired in 1979.

George Brett was a founding member of the CZSG in 1953, holding membership No. 1. After a hiatus of several years, the CZSG was reorganized in 1968, with George as President, a position he held through 1971. Over the years, George contributed numerous articles to the *Canal Zone Philatelist*. He chaired the CZSG Committee on U.S. Overprinted Issues. In view of his many contributions, in 1988, George was awarded a permanent honorary membership in the CZSG.

The strongest personal recollection of George was the generosity he showed with his time and knowledge in educating new generations of philatelists. He will be most fondly remembered.



## The National Postal Museum Canal Zone Collection

by Joseph E. Foley

The featured speaker at the Study Group meeting held in conjunction with STAMPSHOW in Sacramento last August was Wilson Hulme, philatelic curator at the National Postal Museum (NPM). Wilson spoke about the transfer of postal related material from the United States Panama Canal Commission to the philatelic collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The material was later moved to the National Postal Museum when it opened its doors in 1993. It is an immense amount of material. While the task of organizing is underway, assistance from the CZSG was sought. At the end of the meeting, since I live not too far from the museum, I offered to assist any member from out-of-town who might want to view the collection. So far, no calls.

Recently, when contacting Wilson on another subject, I asked how the Canal Zone project was coming along. Let me cut to the chase. At Wilson's invitation, I visited the museum on January 14, 2005, and met with him and Tim Scofield, project coordinator. Tim and the staff have made tremendous progress. The material has been rehoused to allow for better access to the collection. The quality of this aspect reminded me of the way philatelic material is taken care of in the British Library.

### THE COLLECTION

Accession documents show an initial transfer of 36,849 "objects" on a cover sheet dated 4/5/85. Under "Object" is "Postal history and philatelic material of the Canal Zone: stamps, covers, postal stationery, proofs, models, dies, art, designs, and sketches. See attached listing." This sheet notes that there are 186 sheets attached. Next is a memorandum dated October 20, 1986, noting a subsequent transfer of "approximately 9,000 objects." The memorandum refers to an earlier acquisition: "In 1983 the Canal Zone Commission transferred the first of

two installments of files and artifacts associated with the operation of the Canal Zone Postal Administration to the National Philatelic Collection." Following this is another accession document dated Sept. 22, 1988 noting the transfer of 5,700 objects, 110 sheets are attached.

While not an intentional secret, very few knew of the existence of this material. It's really a tribute to the present staff of the NPM that contact was made with the CZSG. It is sure to be a very valuable source of information.

In terms of both magnitude and importance, this collection is remarkable. It appears to go to the end of the Canal Zone Postal Administration in 1979. Its beginning is less certain. In my initial analysis of the collection, I did not note any overprinted issues, though this doesn't mean they are not there. What I did see, however, in addition to actual stamps, was an abundance of what we collectors refer to as archival material: photographs and artwork used as the basis of design, essays and proofs. There are also many documents relating to stamps and postal stationery. Actual working dies for postal stationery, including the surcharge dies, are present. There are many covers, first days, first flights and special events.

For the most part, material has been identified by Scott catalog numbers. For stationery, it might be desirable to note the United Postal Stationery Society numbers which take into account size, knives and watermarks. Hopefully a comprehensive listing of the collection can be undertaken.

### THE ARAGO PROJECT

A portion of this collection will be included in a very ambitious project of the NPM—an online database containing a significant portion of the museum's philatelic collection that will include excellent graphics and concise descriptions. Named the Arago project, after the 19th century French scientist and friend of Smithsonian benefactor, James Smithson. There are more than thirty research volunteers assisting the museum in research and review of the more

than 6,000 objects selected for public viewing when the website launches in March of next year. About 160 items from the Canal Zone collection have been tentatively chosen for the initial appearance. This material has been scanned and the quality of the graphics meets expectations. The software package appears user-friendly.

I have "volunteered" to do what I can to help, but here's the rub: I've been a member of the CZSG for fourteen years, but do not consider myself an expert by any means. I enjoy my collection of Canal Zone stamps, covers and postal stationery, but it is a modest collection. Right now, I am going over the initial group of 160 items. There is a need for other Study Group members to provide consultation. We want to do everything we can to enhance the quality of the Canal Zone section of Arago. Please contact me at Box 183, Riva, MD 21140 or by email at jfoley4197@aol.com and note your chief areas of interest.

### New CZ Plate Position

A note from Jim Crumacker brings forth a new plate position for Sc. No. 119.C (Third printing). This is a lower left (LL) plate number 22077. *Canal Zone Stamps* states that only upper left and upper right panes were used for this number so it is obvious that if one keeps looking at his holdings he/she will eventually come up with something new.

We don't think the following has been reported in the CZP, but recently a new plate position was reported for Sc. 97.A : 18633 upper left; so make note of that in your check list, too.



## Ridged Gum on CZ Stamps

continued from page 1

It is entirely possible that a stamp that is not known to exist with gum ridges, or a stamp that apparently exists with and without gum ridges, actually exists only with ridged gum, the ridges simply being undetectable. Nevertheless, below is the result from examination of my collection. I am reporting only ridged gum of which I am positive; I suspect I have many other stamps with ridged gum, beginning at least with Scott No. 84, but I am not listing them because I think they have disturbed OG and thus I cannot be sure their gum is ridged. All stamps I list with ridged gum I also have apparently without ridged gum; however, as I noted previously, it is possible the stamps apparently without ridged gum actually were manufactured with, and have, ridged gum, it simply being very difficult or impossible to detect the ridges.

Most of my stamps with ridged gum are the ½¢ and 1½¢ Proxies of 1939, Scott Nos. 118 - 119. In fact, the ridges on these are the stamps I used to assume were disturbed OG. After reading the article in *U.S.S.*, I checked these first. I found I have both the ½¢ and 1½¢ apparently

## Ridged Gum Found on Canal Zone Stamps

Denomination	Scott No.	Gum Ridges	
		wide	narrow
10¢	104	14	27
10¢	108 Wet Ptg.	13	-
3¢	115	14	-
14¢	116	-	28
½¢	118	12-14	28
1½¢	119	12-14	-
½¢	136	13-14	-
1½¢	137	13-14	-
25¢	140 Wet Ptg.	13	-

without ridged gum; the ½¢ with both 13 ridges (actually 12 - 14, but most with 13) and 28 ridges; and the 1½¢ with 13 ridges (actually 12 - 14). Both of my ½¢ and 1½¢, on Pos. 84-85 (with the broken Z variety) have ridged gum; and I have the ½¢ with 13 ridges on a plate number 22471 block from the fifth printing (electric eye markings). On my ½¢ stamps, Scott No. 118, with ridged gum, some have perfectly defined ridges, but I have many on which the ridges appear as flattened, or widened, or dulled vertical lines of gum. Thus, the appearance of the ridged gum may vary greatly. Incidentally, there is one aspect of my copies of these two strips, Scott Nos. 118 - 119, that I cannot explain: I have many blocks 3 x 2 or larger with one wide vertical line—almost

like an ungummed line—on every other vertical row of stamps. I do not know the meaning or significance of these lines.

The accompanying table lists the ridged gum I have found. I suspect many more C.Z. stamps exist with ridged gum. Check your stamps to see if you can find some others, and please share any positive results with our members via the CZP.

The article I mentioned at the start of my article is "Gum Ridges and Gum Breakers on Rotary Press Sheet Stamps of the Fourth Bureau Issue", *The United States Philatelist*, June 2003, Vol. 74, No. 6, pp. 246-257. You probably can obtain a copy of this issue by sending \$2 to the Executive Secretary, United States Stamp Society, P. O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491

## President's Report

continued from page 1

where we donated a free CZSG membership during the auction to benefit the Panama Canal Museum which is located in Seminole, Florida. Click onto [www.panama canal museum.org](http://www.panama canal museum.org) for more information.

During the meeting at APS Stampshow in Sacramento in August 2004, the Canal Zone Study Group was honored with a presentation by Wilson Hulme, philatelic curator at the National Postal Museum (NPM). One of our members, Joe Foley, has just visited the NPM and his report is in this edition of the CZP. Without doubt, the material located at the NPM will give some of our lucky members many hours of enjoyment and lead to many interesting research articles in future issues of the *Philatelist*.

In 2005 I know of several CZSG meetings taking place, the first was

in January at ARIPEX in Tucson next one in April at WESTPEX in San Francisco and then at the Philatelic Show in Boxborough, MA. If any of our members know of other meetings scheduled please notify our editor early enough so that he can print a notice in the *Philatelist*. If you wish to host a meeting in your area please contact us. Study Group meetings are successful when held at a major stamp exhibition. In addition I will be happy to mention it on the CZSG Ebay listing that we run most days.

Our annual Mail Sale will again take place during the summer. If you have some good quality material that needs a new home then there is no better place for it. In addition the profits will help fund our handbooks and other publications.

It is not too early to look forward to

next year's spectacular Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition. We will share a table with our sister organization, The Colombia - Panama Philatelic Study Group, and we issue a call for volunteers who will be able to staff the CZSG table. For more information on Washington 2006, check out their website: [www.washington-2006.org](http://www.washington-2006.org).

## Secretary's Report

continued from page 2

### Resigned Members

0224	Dr. Donald L. Mac Peek
0401	Robert I. Patten
1742	John M. Strong
2006	Stephen B. Pacetti
2139	Howard D. Wallace
2369	Egon F. Schartel



## Follow-up on CZ Wrong Font Varieties By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

The article published in the last issue of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* 153: pg. 41-3 discussed the wrong font varieties on the sharp A overprint issues, provided hints about spotting these desirable varieties, and illustrated and described newly discovered wrong font examples that conventional wisdom would say should not exist.

That article prompted more correspondence from members than any other article in the series on "Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps." Several points raised warrant relaying to readers, and this article will provide that information.



Fig. 1 Scott No. 94 with wrong font ZONE

First, Jim Crumpacker has provided another useful test for spotting wrong fonts. He advocates a direct comparison of the letters L in CANAL and E in ZONE, as illustrated in Fig. 1. He suggests examining, in particular, the width of the vertical stroke in the L and the E. Figure 2 provides a direct comparison of these letters from the stamp illustrated in Fig. 1, but cropped and located above one



Fig. 2 Direct comparison of vertical stroke in normal L and wrong font E

another. If both the CANAL and the ZONE overprints are in the normal font, the width of the vertical stroke of the L and E are the same. Because the vertical stroke is less thick in the wrong font, a stamp with the CANAL in the wrong font will show a thinner vertical stroke on the L than the E, and if the ZONE is in the wrong font, the vertical stroke in the E is thinner than the L in CANAL, as shown in Fig. 2. This comparison is appealing because it involves a direct observation on the same stamp rather than a comparison between two or more stamps. This is especially valuable at a dealer's table where we CANAL ZONE collectors are viewed with some suspicion anyway, as we eyeball and measure stamps that would seem to be of little interest.



Fig. 3 Scott No. 86 with wrong font CANAL in left stamp of pair from first printing

The comparison for a wrong font CANAL with a normal ZONE is illustrated in Fig. 3. This pair is from a strip of four on a registered cover sent by Tom Brougham. In it, the narrower vertical stroke in the L of CANAL on the left stamp should be compared to the thicker vertical stroke on the E of ZONE, and with the L of the right stamp in this pair. Again, spotting the wrong font CANAL is facilitated by either comparison with a stamp like the one at right that has normal CANAL and ZONE, or by comparing the L and E in the two words of the overprint on the same stamp.

This figure also provides further insight on the description in the previous article that illustrated a copy of Scott No. 86 with a straight edge at left. That stamp had a wrong font CANAL, which should not have existed according to conventional wisdom because it was believed that the wrong font varieties could only be found on position 51 of upper left

panes of the first printing (those shipped to the Zone on 5/19/1925) of the sharp A stamps in the vertical format. The presence of the guide line, barely visible along the straight-edge at the left, meant the straight-edge was occurring naturally, and the stamp had to be from a right pane.

Figure 3 shows a newly discovered second example of a copy of Scott No. 86 with a wrong font CANAL and a clearly visible guideline at left along the straight-edge, thus confirming that genuine copies do exist from right hand panes from some position with straight-edge at left. Tom Brougham was prompted to look for it after the previous article appeared, and he found he had this cover, now all the more interesting. This cover also shows pretty clearly that the stamps on it are copies of No. 86 from the first printing, not the second printing as the discovery copy illustrated in the previous article seemed to indicate. Knowing of this second straight-edge example of No. 86, reexamination of the discovery copy illustrated in the previous issue of the CZP does permit the characterization that it is also from the first printing. It is particularly the stamp, one in from the SE copy, that shows the clear characteristics of the first printing. The date on this registered cover is Feb 12, 1929, which does not prove that the stamps would have to be from the first printing, as 1929 is well after the date on which the second printing of No. 86 was made available in the Canal Zone.

So now, for sharp A overprinted stamps in the vertical format, we have the previously known wrong font CANAL stamps from position 51 UL appearing on Scott Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, J18, J19, and J20 that were part of the first printing and shipment to the Zone. But now existing examples also include the newly reported wrong font CANAL on Scott. No. J20 in the lower position of the plate number strip of three from the left margin of what gives every indication of being from the second printing of J20, and straight-edge copies from a right pane of No. 86, now better identified as being from the first printing. To help identify the

(continued on next page)

position of the straight-edge wrong font CANAL varieties on No. 86, clear photocopies of multiples containing the straight-edge for right panes of either printing of No. 86 would be appreciated. While we wait to see what else might turn

up, whether for example copies of wrong font CANAL with straight edge at left for other first printing stamps, or copies of J19 from the second printing which are wrong font CANAL varieties, speculation as to how these new discoveries

might have arisen seems premature, and thus will be held for a future report. Please let me know if you find anything, either through your Editor or by e-mail at bates@georgetown.edu.

## Book Review

*Los Orígenes de la República de Panamá a Través de las Postales*, [The Origins of the Republic of Panama through Postcards], by Vicente Alberto Pascual Landa. Panamericana Formas e Impresos S. A., Bogotá, Colombia. 2003. 187pp., hardbound. \$60 + \$5 shipping in U.S., other countries at shipping costs. Order books from the author at Vicente A. Pascual, # V 0172 8619 N.W. 68 St. Miami, Florida 33166 or eMail at: vap@vpinvestment.com.

The author will donate \$10 to the CZ Study Group for each book ordered by its members.

The book was published to commemorate the centenary of the Republic of Panama. This book is in Spanish, and is a labor of love. With special attention to quality and detail, it is a historical and pictorial representation of the beginnings of the Republic of Panama. Over 180 cards have been selected from Mr. Pascual's collection of 7,000 Panama picture post cards. The cards are enlarged and richly illustrated in full color reflecting the period of pre-independence and post-independence from Colombia.

Mr. Pascual Landa starts his book with a prologue that narrates the

development of the post card starting with the legend of St. Valentine, Christmas cards, New Year cards, correspondence cards and finally the illustrated cards. Illustrations abound through out each section including a collage of period post cards from various countries.

The book is further divided into three sections: Panama in 1903, picture post cards before independence and picture post cards of the new Republic. There is an index of the illustrated cards that includes the name of the publishers.

The section of Panama in 1903, written by Alfredo Figueroa Navarro and Vicente Stamato is a delightful cross section of historical facts intertwined with vignettes and anecdotes taken from period newspapers like *El Duende*, *El Lápis*, *El Cronista*, and *La Estrella de Panamá*. Here again we find multiple illustrations that relate to the historical narrative.

Of note are period maps, most likely from the collection of Vicente's father, who has the best known collection of early maps of Panama. Within this section we find sixteen pages of facsimiles of newspaper ads of 1903. The postal history collector will recognize names like Hong Kee, Isaac Brandon

and Luria & Co. seen so often on early Panama covers. Navarro and Stamato conclude the historical overview by creating a chronology of important events of 1903 leading to the 3rd of November independence.

The most beautiful and informative sections in the book are the last two where Mr. Pascual picks and chooses cards from his vast collection to show a developmental process of every-day life in the Isthmus and its transition from a Department of Colombia to an independent Republic.

The enlarged format of the cards, often one illustration per page is accompanied by a narrative that brings the card alive with historical meaning.

The Panama Centenary of 2003 brought about several new publications, some re-telling the known history, others adding new information to the 1903 independence process. Mr. Pascual's book does both, but most importantly, it provides a face, through period post cards and other illustrations, to a story that otherwise could be just an interesting narrative. Without a doubt this book should be part of the library of the Isthmus of Panama collecting public.

Federico A. Brid

The cover shown is from one of three Airborne units that served in the Canal Zone during World War II. When the United States formed airborne, parachute, and glider forces based on the German model, the 501st (shown here) was the first unit, identified as a Parachute Infantry Battalion (PIB). This cover is part of the interesting history of the U.S. Army in the Canal Zone. The 501st PIB sent a company to the Zone to provide an initial parachute capability for the defense of the region. Thus the 501st was not only the first U.S. Parachute unit sent to the Zone but was also the first American parachute unit to be

assigned outside the continental U.S. As WWII was carried to the enemy, the 501st, as well as, the 550th and 551st Airborne Infantry units were reassigned from the Zone to the Pacific and European Theaters.



My daughter and I are finishing an article on Airborne units in the Zone during WWII and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested. Wayne Worthington CZSG #645, waynew@erols.com

## Elusive C. Z. Plate Blocks

Both of the following plate blocks are missing in most advanced C.Z. collections. Only one of each available.

#8\*, 10¢ red brown, 1904 issue. Bt. plate of 6, Full OG, '05 PSE cert. notes: "some gum loss on pos. 4 & 5 + 2 (natural) gum crease" well centered and RARE.

'05 Scott Retail \$ 2,750+  
**Net \$ 2,500**

#95\*, \$1 violet brown, 1926 issue. Normal wide Bt. plate of 6, Pl #14268, very fresh, F by VF (design clear on all 6 stamps) 2 stamps LH, and 4 NH.

'05 Scott Retail \$ 2,000+  
**Net \$ 2,000**

What else do you need in CZ  
Errors or Varieties?

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